

# **Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review**

**Minutes: July 12, 2016**

**The Rhode Island Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review met at its headquarters located at 2 Regan Court, Mathias Building #56, in Cranston, RI on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at 1:00 P.M.**

## **Call to Order:**

**Chairman Newbrook called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.**

## **Roll Call:**

**Present were Chairman Newbrook, Vice-chairman Blackburn and Commissioners Booth, Thornton, Davison, Jackson, Sylvester and Richard.**

**Also present were Executive Director W. Keith Burlingame Esq. and Assistant Administrative Officer Kathy Hague.**

**Absent from today's hearing were Commissioners Pearson, Filippi and Walker.**

**Minutes: Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thornton, to accept the June 28, 2016, minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **New Business:**

**APPEAL #160072:** Arie Pivko and Dr. Michael Sullo appeared for the property located at 43-49 High Street, Westerly. There was no representation from the Westerly Fire Marshal's Office. Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thornton, to hear the case with the assumption that the Westerly Fire Marshal has no objections to the variances requested, and because James Gumbley of the State Fire Marshal's Office was in attendance, he was asked to sit in on the case. The motion passed unanimously and James Gumbley agreed to sit in for the Westerly Fire Marshal's Office. A motion was made by Vice-chairman Blackburn, and seconded by Commissioner Sylvester to grant the Applicant a time variance of thirty (30) days to submit plans to the Westerly Fire Marshal's Office for the installation of a limited area sprinkler system to satisfy the means of egress requirements, provided that all occupants on the basement level have unobstructed access to two (2) exits, and the sprinkler system be hydraulically calibrated to NFPA 13 standards by a licensed professional, and one hundred fifty (150) days to implement that plan. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPEAL #160055:** Stephen Marsella, Esq., Ramzi Loqa, Paul Satas and Louis DeQuattro, Esq. appeared for the property located at 947 Charles Street, North Providence. Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal (ADSFM) John Horan appeared for the North Providence Fire Marshal's Office. Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded

by Commissioner Richard, to grant a time variance of sixty (60) days to install handrail wall returns. The Applicant was also granted a time variance of one (1) year to provide suitable separation in the main entrance between the first and second floors, and a time variance of six (6) months to provide 1-hour separation from the first floor stairwell to the basement and to install a solid-core door on the Cox room. The Board authorized the North Providence Fire Marshal's Office to extend the above timeline(s) for good faith compliance efforts being demonstrated with the provisions of the Board Rules and Regulations sections 6-2-22.1. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPEAL #160076:** Martin Shaw appeared for the property located at 2214 Providence Pike, North Smithfield. ADSFM Brian Gartland appeared for the North Smithfield Fire Marshal's Office. Vice-chairman Blackburn and Commissioner Davison recused themselves from consideration of this case. Commissioner Thornton made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sylvester, to grant the Applicant a time variance of thirty (30) days from the date of the hearing to submit plans to the North Smithfield Fire Marshal's Office for the installation of an updated fire alarm system and one hundred fifty (150) days to implement that plan. The Board authorized the North Smithfield Fire Marshal's Office to extend the above timeline for good faith compliance efforts being demonstrated with the provisions of the Board Rules and Regulations sections 6-2-22.1. The motion passed on a (6) to (0) vote.

**APPEAL #160077:** Kurt O'Hara appeared for the property located at 107-109 Woonsocket Hill Road, North Smithfield. ADSFM Brian Gartland appeared for the North Smithfield Fire Marshal's Office. Vice-chairman Blackburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard, to grant a variance to allow the width of the stairwell to the third floor to remain as is. Also, the Applicant was granted a time variance of thirty (30) days to bring all other deficiencies into compliance. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**NEW FIRE CODE:** The two fire code bills are on the Governor's desk waiting to be signed. There are some issues with the Office of Regulatory Reform regarding a benefits/cost analysis for any changes to rules and regulations.

**FIRE BOARD ADDRESS:** Our office is not moving, but within a few weeks we will be getting a new street address.

**Open Forum / Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thornton, to adjourn the meeting at 1:51 P.M. Motion

**passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Kathy Hague**